

BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

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A N N U A L                      R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., F.R.S.H.

(Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;  
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;  
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;  
School Medical Officer, Essex County Council).

- and the -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER

E.D. Edwards, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.(Tech).

- for the -

Year Ended 31st December, 1964.

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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

July, 1965.

PREFACE

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Saffron Walden.

The estimated mid-year population rose from 8,350 in 1963 to 8,650 in 1964.

There were 148 live births and 116 deaths compared with 146 births and 121 deaths in 1963.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 17.11 compared with 17.49 in 1963. Multiplied by the comparability factor of 1.10 this gives a figure of 18.82 compared with 19.23 in 1963. The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1964 was 18.4.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 13.41 compared with 14.49 in 1963. Multiplying the death rate by the comparability factor of 0.65 gives the figure of 8.72 compared with 9.42 in 1963. The Death Rate for England and Wales in 1964 was 11.3.

Six children under 1 year died in 1964 compared with two in 1963.

Although the standard of health in the Borough continued to remain fairly high, 1964 was quite a busy year. In June a number of school children, who had been on a cruise arranged by their school, had to be thoroughly investigated as the ship had had to make an unscheduled call at a port where smallpox was endemic. Fortunately no children contracted the disease but a large number were found to have developed gastrointestinal symptoms and had to be investigated. The following week a great deal of extra work arose owing to the typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen and the need to carry out checks in accordance with the requests of the Ministry of Health on the supplies of tins of corned beef in the Borough. Constant contact had also to be maintained with the general practitioners to ensure that all suspicious cases were followed up.

In October there was a troublesome outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting and in November an old gentleman living in a Home in the Borough was found to have pulmonary tuberculosis. Although there seemed very little possibility of his having infected others, as he was not in a highly infective condition, it was thought advisable to investigate all contacts and the Cambridge Mass Radiography Unit visited the Home and x-rayed residents and staff. Fortunately no other cases were discovered.



At the request of the South West General Hospitals Group Catering Officer a review was carried out in November of food hygiene arrangements at both local hospitals.

Only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in 1964 compared with 3 cases in 1963 but no conclusions can be drawn where such a small number of cases are concerned. The fight against tuberculosis must still continue and anyone who has a persistent cough, loss of energy, etc., should seek medical advice in order that, where necessary, treatment may be started at an early stage in the disease.

A five year survey of the incidence of cancer of the stomach, with special reference to place of residence and type of employment, was completed during the year. The object of such surveys is to help the continuous research being carried out into the causes of cancer. Very valuable data has already been collected in this way. Cancer is another disease where early diagnosis is a vital factor in obtaining a cure. In this respect I would draw attention to the Diagnostic Cytology Clinics being set up throughout the country for the early diagnosis of cancer of the cervix (neck of the womb). The nearest centre to Saffron Walden is the Cervical Smear Clinic, Addenbrooke's Hospital, New Site, Cambridge.

In 1964 out of a total of 116 deaths, 19 were due to malignant growths, 1 leukaemia or aleukaemia (a form of cancer) and 41 to cardiovascular diseases and vascular diseases of the nervous system. Much research requires to be done into the causes of these vascular diseases. Death or disablement due to coronary thrombosis, in particular, is a cause for great concern. Here is a problem which concerns all of us who are engaged either in preventive or curative medicine.

No cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria occurred during the year, but I do urge all parents to continue to have their children immunised in infancy and to maintain their immunity by seeing that they are given booster doses. Children between the age of 1 and 2 years should be vaccinated against smallpox and revaccination carried out from time to time as necessary. Persons going abroad should take advantage of the protection that can be offered by immunization against various diseases and I would again mention the desirability of inoculation against typhoid and paratyphoid fevers for persons going abroad to places where typhoid is likely to occur. Please consult your family doctors so that the inoculations can be given in time for a good degree of immunity to develop. The necessity for strict attention to personal hygiene e.g. hand-washing after visiting the toilet and before handling all food, etc., cannot be too strongly urged for persons in this country as well as those going abroad. The standard of hygiene in connection with food handling in this country leaves a very great deal to be desired.

As far as can be ascertained, no appreciable reduction appears to have occurred with regard to accidents in the home and continuous propaganda and teaching is required. Health visitors have been paying special attention to this aspect of their work particularly in connection with young children and the elderly. It would be very helpful if





accidents in the home and on the roads could be notified by doctors to medical officers of health in the same way that infectious diseases are notified.

Problems in connection with care of the aged, especially old people living alone, continue to occur, although it was not necessary to take statutory action under the National Assistance Acts during the year.

The difficulty of obtaining hostel and hospital beds for old people continues to be encountered particularly in the case of old ladies. There is an urgent need for more hostel beds to which patients in hospital could be sent after rehabilitation, and there is an ever-increasing need for more 'half-way house' accommodation where a certain amount of nursing could be provided for hostel patients.

The need for Family Service Units to help problem families continues to be felt, although the excellent assistance given by some home helps has succeeded in raising the standard in certain homes to a considerable degree. Other services provided by Essex County Council to which attention should be drawn are Night Attendants for the Sick and the Neighbourly Help Service.

Very good work has been done by voluntary associations particularly in regard to care of the elderly and handicapped. The scope of this help is widening and I would particularly like to refer to the Luncheon Club for elderly people which was started by the Borough Old People's Welfare Association in December, 1964, and which is now well established. Membership is open to all people living in the Borough who are over 60 years of age. Luncheons are held once a month, members are invited on a rota system and a charge of 1/3d. per head is made. The Association has a grant from the Borough Council towards the cost of each meal. Meetings are held at Saffron Lodge at the kind invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Kitty Wilson.

It is hoped by next winter to have information about all elderly people in the Borough who live alone so that a scheme of Street Wardens can be elaborated. Each Street Warden would arrange that no old person living alone should be left without help should the necessity arise. S.O.S. cards have been provided and are available for elderly people who would like to have them. The idea is that in cases of need the card would be put in the window so that passers-by would know that help was required and could inform the Street Warden. It is hoped to have a more elaborate system of communication later, such as a red light over the door, or on the roof of a bungalow, with switches near the old person's bed and at other points in the house. The name of the Honorary Secretary for the Borough of Saffron Walden Old People's Welfare Association is Mrs. L. Grayton, 8, Mandeville Road, Saffron Walden.

The Saffron Walden Society for Mentally Handicapped Children continues to provide help and support for parents who have problems with regard to their mentally handicapped children. The Chairman is the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Mrs. D.J. Hawkins and the Honorary Secretary is Mrs. Sargent, 86, Frambury Lane, Newport, Nr. Saffron Walden.





The St. Christopher Swimming Club for the Disabled has secured the services of a qualified physiotherapist and hydrotherapist. This will enable the Club to extend its sphere of usefulness. Patients are treated under medical direction and all new patients must have a medical certificate. No charge is made by the Club and transport is available if required.

I should also like to mention the Hospital Trust Fund Association, the Blind Club, the St. Raphael Club, the Tuberculosis and Chest

Care Association, the Child Care Association and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Further details about all local voluntary associations can be obtained from this Department and I wish space permitted me to write more about the excellent work being done by them all. We hope that in the future we shall see the establishment of a club for the deaf and also one for persons recently discharged after treatment in Mental Hospitals.

On pages 5 & 6 of the Report will be found a list of services provided by Essex County Council and in connection with this I should like to mention the Relaxation Classes held every Monday afternoon for expectant mothers. These have proved very popular and many mothers have found that they have derived great benefit from them.

I should also mention how the scope of the work for children under school age is being expanded. All Child Welfare Clinics are staffed by specially trained doctors and mothers are invited to bring their babies for a medical check-up as soon as possible after the age of 2 to 4 weeks. Mothers are asked to bring the baby back at quarterly intervals during the first year, half-yearly intervals in the second year and thereafter yearly up to the time of entering school. These are routine check-ups and are in addition to the ordinary clinic consultations. Special equipment is available for testing the hearing of babies of 7 months and older and general assessment of mental as well as of physical progress can be made.

The Satellite Child Guidance Clinic which has been staffed by a psychiatrist, educational psychologist and psychiatric social worker from Chelmsford Child Guidance Clinic has proved of very great benefit to parents of school children and children under school age. It is to be hoped that this Clinic will continue to operate and will be expanded now that Saffron Walden has passed into West-Essex.

A Chiropody Clinic at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden for the over 60's was started early in 1964 and is proving very popular.

An Old People's Advisory Clinic was started later in the year at 69, High Street with the efficient help of Miss Q. Hatfield, Health Visitor/Group Advisor for the area. It was arranged to hold this on the last Wednesday morning of the month so that people attending the Advisory Clinic would have the opportunity of attending the Chiropody Clinic on the same day.

The Combined Training Centre for Handicapped children and adults has proved very successful - the greatest kindness and encouragement is shown to those attending by Mrs. Duncombe, the Supervisor, and her Staff.



This will be the last Annual Report I shall present as Medical Officer of Health and I should like to thank all members of the Council very much for the encouragement they have given me during the past 14 years and the Officials for their co-operation. I have enjoyed my work in Saffron Walden very much. The Medical Officer of Health has been described as the 'Parish Priest of Public Health' - this seems an apt description for the Medical Officer of Health does think of the people in his area as his "parishioners" over whose welfare he must exercise constant care. In addition, the Medical Officer of Health must be a sort of medical detective when trying to ascertain the cause of outbreaks of infectious disease; this makes the work particularly interesting and stimulating. In this respect and other matters too numerous to mention I should like to thank the Borough Public Health Inspector for his truly invaluable help and enthusiasm. Both he and his predecessor, Mr. A.E. Greensmith have been most helpful and congenial colleagues.

I remember with gratitude the help given me from time to time by the County Medical Officer of Health, the Mid-Essex Area Medical Officer and his Staff and the Area Welfare Officer. I am very appreciative of the work of those Essex County Council Health Visitors, District Nurses and Home Helps who have co-operated with me so well in the care of the aged and handicapped and in dealing with problem families. Some of these ladies have now ceased to work in the Borough but I should like them to know that their good work is still bearing fruit and that they are remembered with affection.

It has been a great pleasure to work with the general practitioners and to receive so much help and kindness from them and from the Heads and Staff of all the schools, and I must not omit to thank most warmly my fellow Medical Officers of Health, Dr. Blott, Dr. Harkness, Dr. Miller Wood and Dr. Rainsford who have always been so ready to act for me whenever I have been on leave and also Dr. Ranson who helped me so often before his retirement. Since Christmas 1964 I have had a Deputy, Dr. Pamela Hunter, to act for me in my absence, and although this barely comes into 1964 I should like to thank the Council very much for providing me with this assistance.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to the past and present Medical Director and the Staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge, the outstanding help rendered to Health Departments by the Public Health Laboratory Service is inestimable. The Director and his Staff have always found time to deal with even my smallest problems and I thank them most warmly.

I have also received much help from all the Consultants and Staff of the hospitals in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. I would like to mention particularly the assistance given by Brookfields Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Cambridge, and by the Matrons of the Saffron Walden Hospitals.

The kind assistance of the local Police and of societies and persons too numerous to mention has been much appreciated.







I cannot close without putting on record my very great appreciation for the assistance given to me by my part-time secretaries, Mrs. M. Ledgerton, Miss A. Lamb and Mrs. D. Redfern who have done so much to help over the years by their keenness and efficiency.

I must also thank the Essex County Council part-time Clinic Clerks Miss A. Lamb (who acted as part-time Secretary and part-time Clinic Clerk) and Mrs. G. Sharp, who have been at the Saffron Walden Health Services Clinic since 1954, for their co-operation, Mrs. D. Whiffen, who was always so helpful when she came over from the Dunmow Clinic, and particularly Dr. Miller Wood, the Mid-Essex Area Medical Officer, for his kindness in permitting his Clerks to take messages for me and assist me in emergencies.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
69, High Street,  
Saffron Walden,  
Essex.

Telephone:  
Saffron Walden 2194 & 3396.  
(Saffron Walden 3031 at  
week-ends and in evenings).



BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

Mayor : Councillor R.W. Clitherow, J.P.

Deputy Mayor : Councillor Mrs. D.J. Hawkins, J.P.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as on 31st December, 1964)

Chairman : Alderman F.W. Goddard.

Vice-Chairman : Alderman S.S. Wilson.

The Mayor, Councillor R.W. Clitherow.      Councillor S.G. Brown.

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Hawkins.      Councillor D.M. Miller.

Councillor Brig. J.C.B. Wakeford.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
D.C.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., F.R.S.H.

Secretary(part-time) : Mrs. D.M. Redfern.

Borough Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer :

E.D. Edwards, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.(Tech).

Secretary : Mrs. A.M. Boyton.

Public Health Department:

69, High Street,  
Saffron Walden,  
Essex.





SECTION A - Statistics and social conditions of the Borough.

Area: 7,502 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of  
resident population mid-year 1964): 8,650

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1964)  
according to Rate Books: 2,982

Rateable Value - (April 1st. 1964) : £404,505

Sum represented by Penny Rate (Year ended 31.3.64) : £1,588.14.7d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

(Corrections being made for inward and outward transfers).

	Male	Female	Total
<u>Live Births</u> :			
(Legitimate :	70	73	143
(Illegitimate :	5	0	5
Birth Rate per 1000 population .....			17.11
Birth Rate corrected by multiplication by comparability factor of 1.10 .....			18.82
<u>Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births</u> :			3.37

	Male	Female
<u>Stillbirths</u> :		
(Legitimate :	2	0
(Illegitimate :	0	0

Total Live and Stillbirths : 150

Stillbirths per 1000 live and stillbirths : 13.33

	Male	Female	Total
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) :	4	2	6

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	:	40.54
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births	:	41.96
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	:	NIL

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000 total  
live births) : 40.54 (Total deaths - 6)

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000 total  
live births) : 33.78 (Total deaths - 5)

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined  
per 1000 total live and stillbirths) : 46.67 (Total deaths - 7)

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths - Nil

Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths - Nil



DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1964.  
(Figures in brackets refer to 1963)

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (0)	0 (0)
2. Tuberculosis, other	0 (0)	0 (0)
3. Syphilitic disease	0 (0)	0 (0)
4. Diphtheria	0 (0)	0 (0)
5. Whooping Cough	0 (0)	0 (0)
6. Meningococcal Infections	0 (0)	0 (0)
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0 (0)	0 (0)
8. Measles	0 (0)	0 (0)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0 (0)	0 (0)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1 (2)	0 (1)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6 (4)	0 (0)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0 (0)	4 (2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0 (0)	1 (2)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3 (5)	3 (3)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0 (1)	1 (0)
16. Diabetes	2 (0)	1 (0)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4 (9)	10 (10)
18. Coronary disease, angina	7 (14)	11 (5)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0 (1)	0 (1)
20. Other heart disease	3 (5)	3 (5)
21. Other circulatory disease	1 (2)	2 (2)
22. Influenza	1 (0)	0 (1)
23. Pneumonia	8 (12)	7 (11)
24. Bronchitis	8 (2)	1 (3)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (0)	0 (0)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 (0)	0 (1)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0 (1)	0 (0)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (0)	0 (0)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2 (2)	0 (0)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0 (0)	0 (0)
31. Congenital malformations	2 (0)	0 (2)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8 (5)	6 (3)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	0 (0)	0 (0)
34. All other accidents	1 (0)	4 (2)
35. Suicide	1 (1)	0 (0)
36. Homicide and operations of war	0 (1)	0 (0)
Total deaths - 116	(Male - 62)	(Female - 54)

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Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population : 13.41

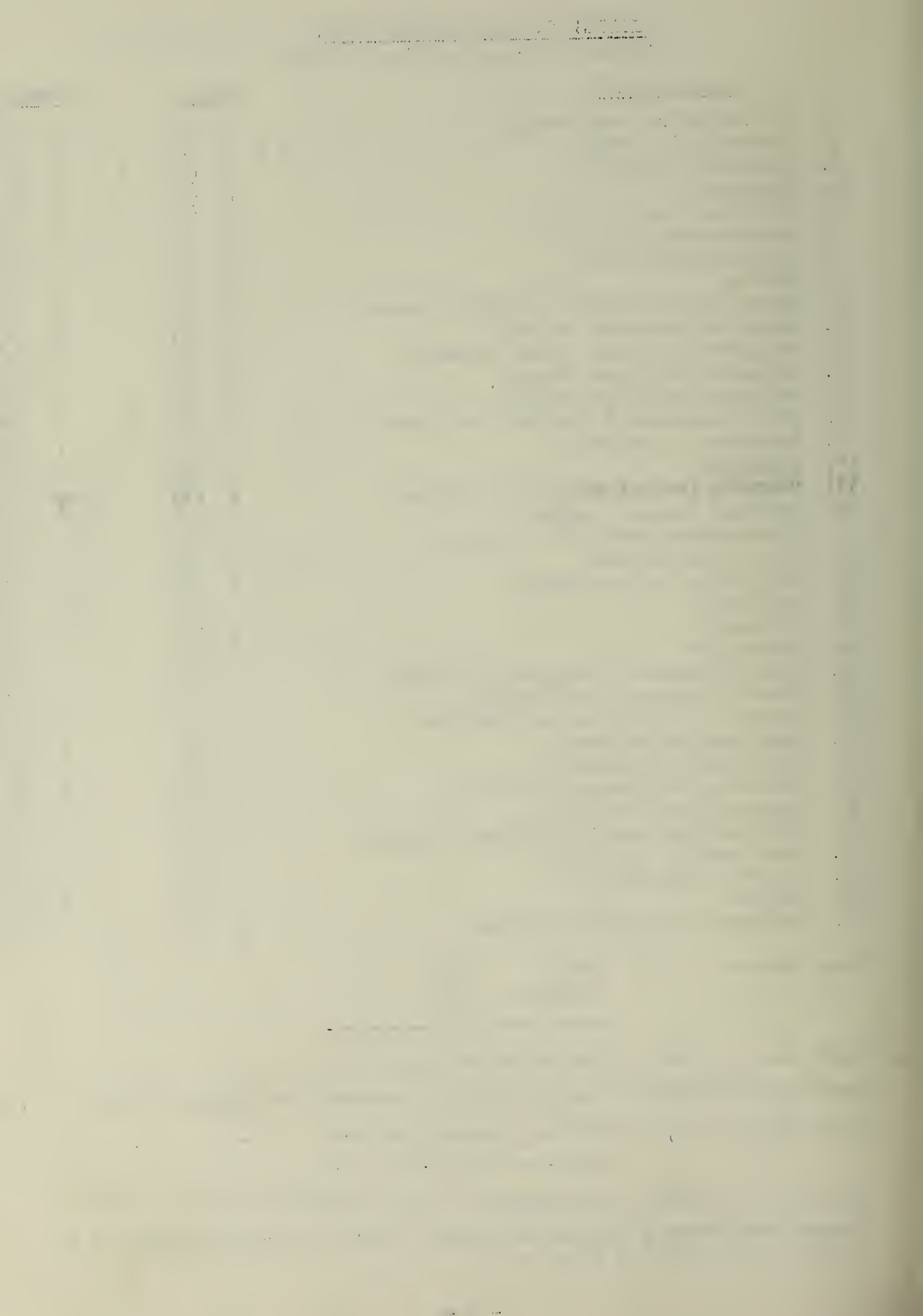
Death Rate corrected by multiplying by comparability factor of 0.65 : 8.72

Death Rate per 1000 population England and Wales : 11.3

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There were 15 deaths from pneumonia in 1964 compared with 23 in 1963.

Deaths from coronary disease and angina totalled 18 compared with 19 in 1963, 28 in 1962 and 21 in 1961.





## PREVELANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year 1964.

	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>
Measles .. .. .	78	74
Whooping Cough .. .. .	0	0
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	0	0
Erysipelas .. .. .	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ( Paralytic .. .. .	0	0
( Non-paralytic .. .. .	0	0
Virus Encephalitis .. .. .	0	0
Sonne Dysentery .. .. .	0	0
Pneumonia .. .. .	0	0
Glandular Fever .. .. .	0	0
Food Poisoning .. .. .	0	0
Infective Hepatitis .. .. .	0	0

### Diphtheria.

For the fifteenth year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

### Poliomyelitis.

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred during 1964.

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred in 1964.

### Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Mild outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting, apparently of viral origin, continued to occur in 1964.

### Tuberculosis.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in 1964 compared with three cases in 1963. Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were removed from the Register as they had recovered and one case as the patient had left the Borough.



## SECTION B - General provisions of Public Health Services for the Borough.

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service. The Borough is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night service is provided by Essex County Council and there is an Ambulance Station at Saffron Walden. Persons requiring an ambulance in an emergency should dial '999' and ask for an ambulance (where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance).

The County Ambulance Service has been re-organised and in September 1st, 1962 it was arranged that all requests for free ambulance transport in the extra Metropolitan part of the County (except in an emergency when the '999' system should be used), should be made to Divisional Ambulance Control, Coval Lane, Chelmsford (Telephone Chelmsford 4801) as the local Ambulance Stations would not be manned for the greater part of the day.

The task of meeting the varied transport requirements with a limited establishment of men and vehicles is a very difficult one and hospitals, general practitioners and others qualified to authorise free transport are asked to co-operate in this work by :-

- (a) ordering transport only for those patients who are incapable of making the journey to or from hospital by any other means.
- (b) using local hospitals as far as is compatible with the best interests of the patient.
- (c) giving at least 24 hours notice of all non-urgent transport requirements.
- (d) sending requests for non-urgent transport by post, whenever possible, so as to ease the heavy load on the telephone system at the Ambulance Control.
- (e) indicating in the case of urgent and semi-urgent admissions whether any delay can be tolerated and, if so, giving an estimate of the length of such delay.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person, such as a mental welfare officer.

### SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

I am indebted to the Mid-Essex Area Medical Officer, Dr. J.L. Miller Wood, for the following information :

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors - Two Health Visitors work in the Borough, Miss E.W. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M.(Part 1), H.V. Certificate and Mrs. D.P. Silver, B.Sc., S.R.N., Q.N., H.V. Certificate.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery - These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.





Home Help Service, Night Attendants for the Sick and Neighbourly Help Service - Applications for these services should now be made to Area Medical Officer, West Essex Area Health Office, Municipal Offices, High Road, South Woodford, E.18. (Telephone Buckhurst 9222).

Care of Expectant Mothers - An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden. Relaxation classes are held every Monday afternoon.

A Women's Welfare Clinic is conducted in conjunction with the Ante-Natal Clinic. This is not a Family Planning Clinic and advice on contraceptive methods is only given to married women where pregnancy would be definitely detrimental to health.

Care of Children up to School Age - Child Welfare sessions are held at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden, at 2 p.m. every Friday afternoon.

Children are immunised against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough by their family doctors or at the Clinic, at the request of their parents. Smallpox vaccinations are not carried out at the Clinic as a routine but are performed by the family doctor.

Health of the School Child - Routine medical inspections are carried out in this area on school entrants, school leavers and children in the 10-12 year age group, and special examinations are carried out as required. A School Clinic is held at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden, each Thursday at 10 a.m.

School children can be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis, and children in the 12-14 years age group can also be immunized against tuberculosis, with their parents' consent.

Dental Service - Treatment is given at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden and inspections are carried out in the schools.

A Combined Training Centre for mentally handicapped children and adults is situated in Hill Street, Saffron Walden.

A Satellite Child Guidance Clinic was established at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden in February, 1962, and has been held on the first Monday of each month during 1964.

An Old People's Advisory Clinic was started in 1964 at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden, and is held on the last Wednesday of each month at 10.30 a.m.

## HOSPITALS.

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford.

Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to



Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases are accommodated at Newmarket General Hospital, Cambridge Maternity Hospital and the Herts and Essex Hospital.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47)  
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951.

It was not necessary to take statutory action under these Acts during the year.



## SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department for the following report :-

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The existing arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the Borough are reasonably adequate despite the growth of the town.

The continued use of the old sewage works has been maintained by following the policy of carrying out minor improvements and additions annually.

A system of odour control has been installed in an effort to combat previous complaints regarding the smell from the works.

The Borough Council is very mindful of the rate of growth of Saffron Walden and the possible need for a new sewage disposal works in the not too far distant future, but having regard to the improvements and additions carried out and the fact that the quality of the final effluent has been maintained, it has been decided that no action is called for before the matter is reviewed in March, 1965. The position will be reviewed annually thereafter.

The small sewage disposal plants serving Council housing estates at Swards End and Little Walden continue to give satisfactory service and both are to be increased in size to serve larger numbers of houses.

### Swimming Baths.

The purification and heating plant continues to operate very satisfactorily and a high standard of purity has been maintained at all times in the pool.

The purification plant is now housed in the basement below the new toilets in Market Row, adjoining the Baths, and changing cubicles have been installed on the floor above the toilets.

Further alterations and improvements to the Baths are proposed.

### Water Supply.

Throughout the district the standard of water for domestic purposes has been maintained at a high level as regards quality.

Apart from some shortage in isolated areas during times of drought, the supply has been satisfactory.

Number of dwelling houses and population served -

(a) Direct to houses - 2,948 Houses. Population 8,580

(b) By means of standpipes - 34 Houses. Population 70

Total Population served - 8,650





## ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

From Saffron Walden Borough Council per E.C.C.

Labelled - Main supply, Municipal Offices, Saffron Walden. From bore in chalk after filtration and softening.

### Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance : Clear and bright.	Hardness : Total ..... 175
Turbidity : Nil.	Carbonate 175)
	Non-carbonate 0)
Colour ..... Nil.	Nitrate Nitrogen ..... 6.4
Odour ..... Nil.	Nitrite Nitrogen ..... Absent.
pH. .... 7.3	Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..... 0.000
Free Carbon Dioxide ..... 28	Oxygen Absorbed ..... 0.25
Electric Conductivity ..... 580	Albuminoid Nitrogen ..... 0.000
Dissolved Solids	Residual Chlorine ..... 0.05
dried at 180°C. .... 390	Metals : Zinc ..... 0.4
Chlorine present as Chloride . 25	Iron, Copper, Lead Absent.
Alkalinity as	
Calcium Carbonate ..... 290	

### Bacteriological Results.

Number of colonies developing (1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20-22°C.			
on Agar per ml. in ( ... ... ...			
	Present in	Absent from	Probable number
Presumptive Coliform reaction	... ml.	... ml.	... per 100 ml.
Bact.coli. (Type I)	... ml.	... ml.	... per 100 ml.
Cl.welchii reaction	... ml.	... ml.	

### REPORT ON THE RESULT OF THE ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of zinc. The hardness of the water is moderate and its content of mineral and saline constituents is not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic uses.



BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Nature of Sample : Tap at Municipal Offices, Saffron Walden.

Date of collection : 3. 3.64.

Date of arrival : 3. 3.64.

---

R E P O R T.

Date of Report: 5.3.64.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 24 hours 37°C. aerobically 0 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C  
0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of Bact. coli (type I) 0 per 100 ml.

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Remarks :-

Highly satisfactory.





R E P O R T

. of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1964.



REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1964.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors of the Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report of the work and duties carried out by myself or at my instigation during the year 1964.

The year in question was, on the whole, one of normal routine and there are only two matters to which I need draw your particular attention.

The first is the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963, which came into operation during the year. This Act is, without doubt, of outstanding importance as it provides ways and means of protecting the health, safety and welfare of a very large section of the working community. Prior to the Act no precise powers existed to ensure good working conditions for office employees and the Act is to be welcomed as one which provides, in many instances, definite standards as to the facilities, amenities and general working conditions to be enjoyed by these and other employees. From a local authority aspect the Act does, however, create certain difficulties as to enforcement and this is a problem which is fairly common to many local authorities. A great deal of additional work and responsibility is placed upon the local authority and their public health staff and the proper and efficient working of this Act will largely depend on whether qualified staff are available who have sufficient time to enforce the requirements of the Act.

I shall, of course, make every effort to fulfil and carry out the additional duties placed upon me but, inevitably, other duties will suffer.

The second matter I wish to refer to is connected with the first and concerns the routine inspection of food premises of which there were 95 in the Borough at the end of the year.

The routine inspection of all types of food premises is of prime importance to ensure proper standards of food hygiene are attained and maintained. Frequency of inspection should vary according to the type of business. Those where there are the greater potential risk to public health, such as restaurants, cafes and canteens, would obviously need more frequent inspection than say, a greengrocer, where such risks tend to be less. Due to the various commitments of my other duties, 81 inspections were made of food premises during the year and this total falls some way below that which is considered desirable. One would like to anticipate an improvement in the future but due to the general pressure of work this would appear unlikely. The situation will also be aggravated by the additional call upon my time in connection with the enforcement



and administration of the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act. This problem will also become more acute as the Borough continues to increase in size and more and more office, shop, factory and food premises etc. come into being.

In an Annual Report one naturally hopes to refer to continued progress and steadily improving measures to safeguard the health and well-being of the community for which the Council and myself are responsible and need to be continually aware. The following report will show this to be the case for the year 1964 but, in my opinion, there could, and should, be more rapid progress in work connected with public health if only to be in step with other rapidly improving standards and changes which are common to the day and age in which we live.

I wish to express to the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors my grateful thanks for their support and interest during the year. My thanks are again due to Dr. I.H.C. Hastilow, Medical Officer of Health, and all officers and staff at the Municipal Offices for their ready co-operation and assistance and, in particular, to my Secretary, Mrs. A.M. Boyton, who by her loyalty and efficiency has done much to ensure the smooth working of the Public Health Department.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.D. EDWARDS

Public Health Inspector & Housing Officer.





# REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER.

## Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the Year :-

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED .. .. .	17
TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED .. .. .	1,239

### Public Health.

Public Health Act .. .. .	54
Re-inspections .. .. .	23
Premises affected with insect pests .. .. .	7
Drainage and conservancy .. .. .	17
Smoke abatement : Visits .. .. .	9
Noise Abatement .. .. .	8
Miscellaneous Visits .. .. .	56

### Housing.

Housing Act .. .. .	17
Re-inspections .. .. .	6
Miscellaneous .. .. .	46

### Water Supply.

Inspections and investigations .. .. .	4
Visits re: Water Sampling .. .. .	134

### Food & Drugs Act.

Meat Inspections at Slaughterhouses .. .. .	441
Inspection of Food .. .. .	34
Inspections of Food Premises .. .. .	81
Inspections of Slaughterhouses .. .. .	5

### Infectious Disease.

Enquiries .. .. .	15
Re-visits .. .. .	10
Disinfections .. .. .	2

Shops, Offices & Railway Premises Act : Inspections .. .. .	1
Visits .. .. .	31

Shops Act Inspections . .. .. .	4
---------------------------------	---

Factories Act Inspections .. .. .	3
-----------------------------------	---

Pet Animals Act; Animal Boarding Establishments Act . .. .. .	3
---	---

Rodent Control .. .. .	25
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### Visits in connection with :-

Applications for Council accommodation .. .. .	39
Tenancies of Council accommodation .. .. .	164



## ACTION UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Informal notices served requiring the remedy of :-

i. defects at dwellinghouses	.. .. .	5
ii. repair or renewal of sanitary conveniences, improvement or clearing of drainage systems	..	8
iii. nuisance from foul ditches	.. .. .	2

Informal notices complied with in respect of :-

i. defects at dwelling-houses	.. .. .	5
ii. repair or renewal of sanitary conveniences, improvement or clearing of drainage systems	..	4
iii. removal of offensive matter	.. .. .	1
iv. unsatisfactory water supplies from wells	.. ..	5

Formal notices served requiring remedy of defects

at dwelling-houses	.. .. .	Nil
--------------------	---------	-----

Formal notices complied with in respect  
of defects at dwellinghouses .

.. .. .	2
---------	---

Details of defects and nuisances remedied are listed on Page 17 of this Report.

## THE CONTROL OF INSECT PESTS.

Two Council dwellings were reported to be infested with fleas and these appeared to originate from domestic pets, a dog in one case and several cats in the other. Both houses were only lightly infested and easily treated with an insecticide. The pets were treated for vermin by their owners with satisfactory results.

Advice was given in connection with an infestation of flour beetles in a flour store and a suitable insecticide was recommended for use by the proprietor to eradicate these insects.

A grocery shop and store found to be lightly infested with cockroaches was disinfested on two occasions with, it would appear, complete success after the second treatment.

Each year assistance is requested to eradicate cockroaches in food or similar premises and, on occasions, at domestic premises. Although these requests are sporadic and do not follow any particular pattern it appears reasonable to suspect that cockroach infestations are more





widespread than is generally appreciated. Being nocturnal in habit cockroaches are seldom seen by day and such infestations that are found are much heavier than normally realised by the occupiers of the premises concerned. Once they have gained a firm foothold much time, effort and patience may be necessary to completely eradicate this pest from premises. Early attention is essential as soon as the presence of cockroaches is suspected or confirmed.

Several wasps nests were also destroyed during the year.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES.

15 enquiries and 10 re-visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Action mainly consisted of advising the persons concerned as to ways and means of preventing the spread of infection to their families and the public at large. Disinfection was carried out as and when necessary.

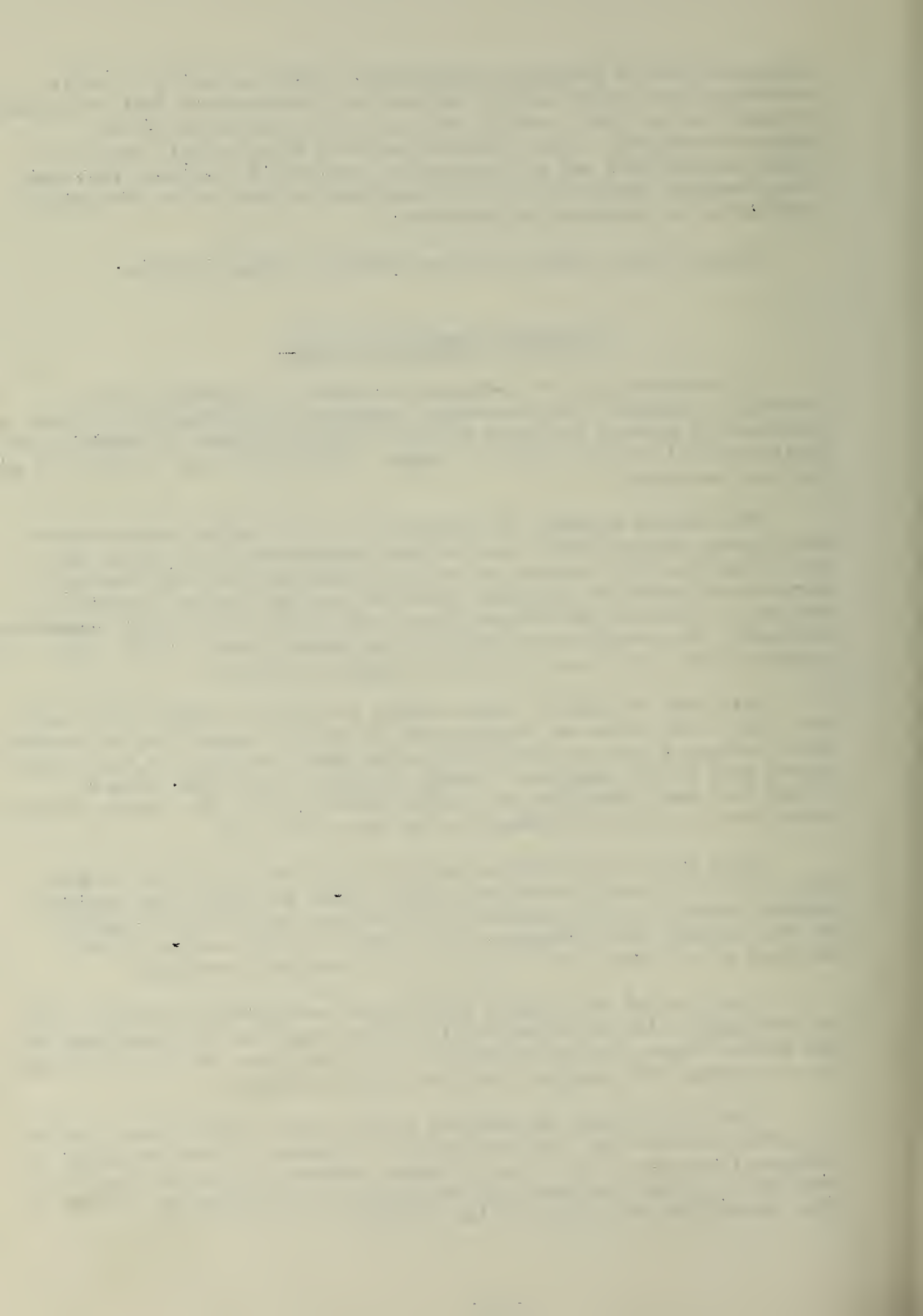
The typhoid epidemic at Aberdeen had far reaching repercussions when it was thought there could be some association with corned beef. As a precaution the Ministry of Health advised that certain tins of corned beef should be with-held from sale pending further information and, as a result of this advice, local authority public health inspectors throughout the country were engaged in an urgent search at all food premises where such tins could be in stock or on sale.

This task was made a little easier in that the suspect tins were the large 6 lbs. size and consequently it was the larger shop or canteen with a moderate sale of corned beef which would be likely to have this corned beef on the premises. Having discovered any 6 lbs. tins of corned beef they could then be readily identified by the packing station description and number embossed in one end of the tin.

Quick action was essential and all food premises likely to keep this size of tin were visited and their stocks of corned beef checked. Letters setting out the necessary details were sent to the occupiers of the remaining food premises. As a result of this action 53 food premises of all types were visited or the occupiers contacted.

A few tins of the suspect corned beef were found at one shop and, by arrangement with the Chief Public Health Inspector for Cambridge, it was decided these tins be returned to the firm's area depot at Cambridge for impounding with similar tins from other districts.

A week later these efforts and actions were repeated when, acting on further information from the Ministry of Health, it was necessary to withdraw from sale 6 lbs. tins of tongue produced at the same packing stations as those from which the corned beef had originated. No tins of this description were found in the Borough.



## ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

### Repair of Dwellings.

It was not necessary to serve any notices for the repair of houses which appeared to be unfit for human habitation. Two informal notices which had previously been served were complied with when the two houses in question were improved and repaired with the aid of improvement grants.

Details of defects remedied are listed on Page 17 of this Report.

### Demolition, closure etc., of unfit houses.

Six houses were closed and at the end of the year a further house was subject to action to secure its closure. Seven families totalling 15 persons were displaced from these houses; 3 of these families found their own alternative accommodation and the other 4 families were re-housed in Council accommodation.

The two occupants of the sole remaining occupied house at Nos.1,2, 3 & 4, Museum Court were re-housed by the Council and all four houses were then demolished by the owner in compliance with an undertaking given several years previously.

Three of the seven families occupying the 8 houses in the Fairycroft Road Clearance Area were re-housed by the Council and the re-housing of the remaining families should take place during 1965.

At the end of the year only the following houses which are included in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme remained to be dealt with :-

8, Debden Road.

6,7,9,10 & 12/13, Freshwell Gardens

(No.7 closed 8.1.65, Nos.6 & 12/13 closed 9.4.65).

9 & 10, Mount Pleasant Cottages.

### Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were recorded during the year but there were a few instances where families were living in very cramped conditions.

### General.

A total of 18 Council Dwellings and 75 Private Dwellings were completed and occupied for the first time. At the end of the year there were approximately 2,982 occupied dwellings of all types.





## FACTORIES and OUTWORKERS.

3 inspections were made of premises registered as factories and a notice was served in the case of one factory where suitable means of ventilation was not provided to the sanitary conveniences.

3 people were registered as outworkers.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961, are given on Pages 18 & 19 of this Report.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950.

4 inspections were made under this Act but no action was necessary.

## THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

This Act is the first protective legislation designed specifically to control environmental conditions in offices and provide statutory standards for the health, safety and welfare of the office worker, standards which have been enjoyed by factory workers for very many years. Protective legislation for shop workers already existed but the new Act and Regulations greatly improve upon the earlier legislation as the requirements as to working conditions and amenities are more precise and cover a wider range of matters.

The Act protects a large section of the working population as at the end of 1963 official estimates indicated that in Great Britain there were approximately 4 million office workers, 3 million shop workers and over 1 million employees in railway, hotel, cinema and similar premises.

At 31st December, 1964, there were 862 employees in 163 premises in the Borough for which the Council are responsible for the enforcement of the Act. In addition there were various premises for which H.M. Inspector of Factories is responsible for the enforcement of the Act. Such premises are offices attached to factories, Crown property and local authority premises.

The main provisions of the Act came into operation on 1st August, 1964. Prior to this date employers were required to notify the appropriate enforcing authority of the number of persons they employed and the type of work in which these persons were engaged.

The main work during the year was to ensure that all employers had





in fact provided this information. There was fairly wide national and some local publicity but as time progressed it was necessary to write to many employers to remind them of the need to provide the required information in prescribed form. Where this had no effect the employers concerned were visited and the necessary information obtained.

By the end of the year all notifications had been received so a clear picture of the future work involved was apparent. Just prior to the end of the year one office premises was also inspected.

There is no doubt in my mind that the resources of the Council's Public Health Inspector's Department, consisting as it does of only myself and my part-time secretary, will be greatly taxed to ensure the full and proper administration and enforcement of the Act. Every endeavour will be made to carry out the initial inspection of all premises concerned as soon as possible and it is hoped that satisfactory progress will be commented upon in future Annual Reports.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 are given on Pages 20, 21 & 22 of this Report.

#### CLEAN AIR.

9 visits were made in connection with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the matters dealt with were as follows :-

1. Alleged nuisance due to the emission of smoke from a domestic chimney. The nuisance was said to be mainly due to the material burned on the fire which was thought to be waste textile and similar material.

This nuisance was not proved or confirmed but the occupier of the premises from where the smoke was said to originate was interviewed. No further complaints have since been received.

2. Emissions of dark smoke from large steam raising plant - solid fuel fired. Although dark smoke was emitted on occasions no offence was proved to have been committed as the periods of emission were not in excess of those allowed by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958. The owner of the plant was interviewed and requested to still further reduce the emissions of smoke as far as it was possible to do so. Conditions were later satisfactory when the plant was converted to the use of oil fuel and the emission of smoke ceased.

3. Presence of oily film over moderately large area of glass at horticultural premises. The oily film referred to had apparently slowly built up over a moderately long period of time. As the film on the



roofs of glass-houses at the premises had the effect of reducing the light and sun-light to the plants housed below the presence of this oily film was of some economic significance to the owner of the horticultural premises. By the situation of the area in which this film appeared there was little doubt it originated from a large oil fired heating plant at adjoining premises. The plant was of good modern design, appeared to be in perfect order and condition and to be working efficiently with the complete combustion of the oil fuel. The owners of the plant were requested to take all possible action to prevent further contamination at the horticultural premises.

4. Burning of refuse on agricultural land. A resident of a nearby housing estate complained of nuisance from smoke due to the burning of refuse. The owners of the land were informed that the burning of such refuse was an offence and, as far as is known, the offence has not been repeated.

#### National Survey of Air Pollution.

The apparatus for the daily measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air was put into operation as from 29th October, 1963. Although of some local interest the information provided by the instrument will be of the greatest value in connection with the national survey of air pollution.

Although the apparatus has been in operation for over a year it is still far too early to come to any definite conclusions as to whether atmospheric pollution in the Borough is increasing or decreasing. Several years will need to elapse before any comparisons of value can be made. As there are now over 1,000 stations throughout the country each feeding local information to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at their Warren Spring Laboratory, Stevenage, there is some delay before the necessary calculations are completed and notified to each participating body. At the time of preparing this report data to the end of June, 1964, only is to hand.

Although of no great or particular significance it may be of interest to compare measurements taken at Saffron Walden with measurements from other towns of varying sizes picked at random in different parts of the country. These measurements are shown in the table on Page 23 and are the average daily readings for approximately the first quarter of 1964.

Information from the Council's measuring apparatus is also being supplied to the Lancaster & Morecambe College of Further Education in connection with their survey and research project concerning atmospheric suspended chloride.





## NOISE ABATEMENT.

Of all the various matters dealt with by the public health department the assessment and judgement of noise alleged to be causing a nuisance can, at times, be the most difficult.

It is generally accepted that noise which causes no inconvenience to many people may cause discomfort and severe upset to others. When investigating complaints concerning noise one's sympathies may lie with the complainant but, in coming to a decision whether a statutory nuisance is being committed, these sympathies must be disregarded and every endeavour made to give a completely impartial opinion. If this opinion is in opposition to that of the complainant it is generally most difficult or impossible for the complainant to accept this opinion when it is explained. No answer to this problem is apparent or seems likely.

8 visits were made in response to requests or complaints concerning noise.

In two cases these concerned noise from machinery at different business premises and details were reported to the Council. In each case it was decided the noise was not of sufficient degree to be a statutory nuisance and that formal action was not, therefore, warranted. The occupiers of both premises were contacted informally however and requested to take all reasonable steps to reduce the emission of noise.

Another complaint was of noise from a mobile generator which was in operation day and night. On investigation it was found the generator was necessary to provide power for the test-pumping of water from a bore-hole and its use was for six days only. By the time the complaint had been made this period had, in any case, almost expired. The use of the generator was of a semi-essential nature and a little fore thought and effort in notifying residents in the vicinity would probably have ensured their co-operation and tolerance.

Complaints were also received of excessive noise from a juke-box on licensed premises and after two visits the co-operation of the licensee was obtained.



## FOOD PREMISES and FOOD INSPECTION.

### Food Premises.

There are 95 food premises and an average of 20 food vehicles and stalls operating in the Borough. The types are as follows :-

Restaurants and Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	9
School and factory canteens	..	..	..	..	..	9
Hotels and Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	22
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	6
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bakers and Confectioners shops	..	..	..	..	..	5
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wet and Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	13
General stores (grocery, sweets, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	12
Sweet Factory	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	6
Green-grocers	..	..	..	..	..	4
Mobile butchers shops	..	..	..	..	..	5
Fish Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Fish and Chip Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sweet Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Grocery shops	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fruit and Vegetable stalls	..	..	..	..	..	3 (average)
Mobile greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poultry Stall	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ice-cream vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	5

12 of the above premises continued to be registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food. A total of 34 premises were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale and storage of ice-cream or similar commodity, one registration was new and one registration was given up. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough.

The general standard of food premises continued to be satisfactory. Further existing food premises were modernised as during previous years and five new food shops were opened.

Food handling on the whole was satisfactory but an occasional case of lack of sufficient care or thought when selling or preparing food still arose. The employer may provide all modern facilities and equipment in order to attain a high standard of food hygiene but this is of no avail if an employee is careless in his or her approach to the work in hand. Certain aspects of food handling are, when considered necessary, emphasised during



routine inspections of food premises but there is no guarantee that all members or new members of the staff receive the necessary and appropriate instructions.

81 inspections of food premises were made during the year.

#### Food Inspection.

17 visits were made for the purpose of examining various foodstuffs to determine whether or not they were fit for human consumption. In all cases the food was surrendered voluntarily and was subsequently destroyed.

The types and quantities of food surrendered were as follows :-

<u>Tinned Food.</u>		<u>Other Food.</u>	
Fruit	180 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Carcase Meat	290 lbs.
Meat	153 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Chickens	65 lbs.
Vegetables	88 lbs.	Offal	50 lbs.
Fish	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.		
Preserves	4 lbs.		
Cream	1 lb.		
Evaporated Milk	80 pints.		
Soup	3 pints.		

16 other visits were made concerning the fitness of food for human consumption or in response to complaints with regard to food.

A total of 6 complaints regarding the suitability of various foodstuffs were received and there was justification for the complaint in each case. No formal action was taken but the necessary warnings were given and where required, advice or direction to prevent similar complaints in the future. All such action is recorded and if a similar complaint occurred, or advice or direction was disregarded, the Council would be recommended to take the appropriate formal action.

#### The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

These Regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, and require the pasteurisation of liquid egg to be used in food intended for sale for human consumption, other than egg broken out of the shell on the food manufacturer's premises and used within 24 hours.

There are no premises within the Borough where the pasteurisation of liquid egg is carried out and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test. Food manufacturers within the Borough tend to use egg direct from the shell.





## MEAT INSPECTION.

The total animals slaughtered for food in the Borough were less than the previous year. The total number of sheep decreased but this was off-set by more pigs being slaughtered and, for this reason, the total carcase meat produced in the Borough was much the same as for 1963.

Comparative figures are as follows :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1955.	475	1724	704	40	2943
1957.	550	2599	470	41	3660
1959.	398	2422	1133	22	3975
1961.	706	2234	1127	23	4090
1963.	763	2617	1101	10	4491
1964.	763	2681	821	4	4269

Every animal slaughtered at either of the two slaughterhouses was inspected as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. The charges for meat inspection as permitted by the Regulations produced the sum of £216. 11. 9d.

The number of animals where part of the carcase or offal was rejected as being unfit for human consumption showed little alteration to previous years. The amounts of meat and offal rejected are shown below and represent only a very minute proportion of the carcase meat and offal released for human consumption :-

1955.	1 ton.	16 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1957.	1 ton.	19 cwts.	2 qrs.	3 lbs.
1959.	1 ton.	11 cwts.	0 qrs.	13 lbs.
1961.	1 ton.	7 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1963.	1 ton.	10 cwts.	3 qrs.	23 lbs.
1964.	1 ton.	11 cwts.	2 qrs.	7 lbs.

### Slaughterhouse Facilities.

Conditions at both slaughterhouses continued to be satisfactory and minor repairs and improvements were carried out at both premises.

### General.

The work of meat inspection continued smoothly with the ready co-operation and help of management and staff at both slaughterhouses as



during previous years.

Some meat inspection is necessary outside normal working hours and this entails a visit to one or both slaughterhouses late on every Saturday afternoon for a total period of 1 to 1½ hours.

441 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection.

A summary of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part is given on Page 24 of this Report.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

#### Main supplies.

The routine sampling of the mains water supplies for bacteriological examination was carried out during almost every week of the year. In deciding at which points to collect samples the aim is to cover the whole of the Borough and, besides the town and villages, to include those parts where only a few houses are situated. In the latter cases the main often comes to a dead end and is of particular interest as the flow and changing of the water in the pipes is comparatively small.

All samples of the mains water supplies were satisfactory.

#### Well supplies.

Four deep wells providing the only source of water to 8 dwellings and 1 small factory continued in use and, as routine, were sampled either at monthly or quarterly intervals according to the results of samples in the past.

Two wells fell below the suggested standard for samples from sources of this nature. In each case local contamination of an easily preventable nature was suspected and rectified with satisfactory results.

The use of one of the wells which has been unsatisfactory on occasions should be discontinued during 1966 when a main supply will then be in close proximity to the premises at present served by the well.

#### Swimming Baths.

Samples from the Municipal and Friends' School Swimming Baths were highly satisfactory and comparable to water direct from the main supply.

#### Paddling Pool, Landscape View.

The only sample from this pool was unsatisfactory and although perhaps





suitable for the sailing of model boats and paddling, should not be used by children to immerse themselves with the possibility of water entering the mouth.

Summary of samples collected for bacteriological examination.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply - Town Area	29	29	Nil
Main supply - Swards End	19	19	Nil
Main supply - Audley End Village	19	19	Nil
Main supply - Little Walden			
Direct from Town	10	10	Nil
Indirect (via Water Tower, Little Walden)	11	11	Nil
Main supply - Other parts of Borough	5	5	Nil
Well supplies in use	35	29	6
Municipal Swimming Bath	4	4	Nil
Municipal Paddling Pool	1	Nil	1
Friends School Swimming Bath	1	1	Nil



## RODENT CONTROL.

The number of infestations reported or found on routine survey for rats or mice were slightly fewer than the previous year so some little improvement can be reported. Infestations were generally of a sporadic nature and, other than at the Council's refuse tip, were only minor in their extent.

The infestation of rats at the refuse tip, although classed as a major infestation, was greatly reduced. This was due to the regular routine baiting of the tip and also to a substantial reduction in the area of exposed refuse as the pit used for this purpose progressively became more and more full.

As a result of notification or routine survey, a total of 115 premises or land areas were found to be infested with rats during the year and 2 with mice. A total of 136 treatments or re-treatments were carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator.

A routine treatment of the Town sewers was carried out during April & May, bait being laid in 128 inspection chambers situated at various points over the whole sewered area. Only 4 manholes showed any take of bait and from this result it can be safely assumed that the level of infestation of the Town sewers is very low. This result can be partly attributed to the fact that several sewers are running at an ever increasing capacity and so do not readily support colonies of rats.

Bait was also laid in the small sewerage systems at Swards End and Little Walden but no takes of bait were recorded.



## HOUSING APPLICATIONS and TENANCIES.

The number of new applications for Council accommodation was 83 as compared with 76 in the previous year.

A summary of applications outstanding at the end of the year is as follows :-

### Applications from :

Single persons .. .. .	11	(9)
Single elderly persons .. .. .	43	(39)
Married elderly couples &c. .. .. .	37	(35)
Married couples with :		
No children .. .. .	50	(38)
One child .. .. .	57	(46)
Two children (same sex) .. .. .	25	(31)
Two children (opposite sex) .. .. .	20	(18)
Three children (same sex) .. .. .	5	(4)
Three children (opposite sexes) .. .. .	12	(8)
Four children (same sex) .. .. .	2	(1)
Four children (opposite sexes) .. .. .	2	(2)
Five children (opposite sexes) .. .. .	2	(2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Applicants	266	(233)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(Figures in brackets refer to 1963).

50 names were withdrawn from the list of applicants for the following reasons :-

Purchased own houses .. .. .	1
Found other accommodation .. .. .	6
Removed from District .. .. .	7
Miscellaneous reasons .. .. .	5
Granted tenancies .. .. .	31

18 new houses were completed and let at Hunters Way and 17 existing dwellings came vacant.

The reasons for the existing dwellings coming vacant are as follows :-

Tenants transferred to Hunters Way .. .. .	4
Left District .. .. .	3
Through old age, illness or death .. .. .	7
Tenants purchased own accommodation .. .. .	3





At the end of the year 26 dwellings for general applicants at Hunters Way remained to be completed, the erection of 10 houses in the village of Little Walden was expected to commence early in 1965.

Council accommodation occupied during the year was as follows :-

	<u>Families</u>
New accommodation let for the first time :	
(a) to applicants .. .. .	13
(b) to applicants displaced from condemned houses ..	1
(c) to transferred Council tenants .. ..	4
Existing accommodation let :	
(a) to applicants .. .. .	10
(b) families displaced from condemned houses ..	7
(c) to transferred Council tenants .. ..	7
Tenants allowed to change tenancies with :	
(a) other tenants of the Council .. .. .	-
(b) tenants of other local authorities .. ..	7
(c) tenant of an Almshouse .. .. .	1
	<hr/>
New tenancies	50
	<hr/> <hr/>

Council owned accommodation at the end of the year consisted of the following :-

	<u>Pre-war.</u>	<u>Post-war.</u>
4 bedroom houses	2	20
3 bedroom houses	160	390
2 bedroom houses	-	20
2 bedroom flats	-	44
2 bedroom Arcon bungalows	-	20
Bed-sitting room flats	16	-
<u>For elderly persons.</u>		
2 bedroom flats	-	30
2 bedroom bungalows	-	8
1 bedroom bungalows	-	2
1 bedroom flats	-	18
Bed-sitting room flats	-	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	178 pre-war dwellings.	558 post-war dwellings.
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

39 visits were made in connection with housing applications and 164 visits in connection with matters affecting Council tenancies.



## DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED.

(Under Public Health & Housing Acts).

### General.

Accumulations removed .. .. .	1
Nuisance from keeping of Animals abated .. .. .	1

### Drainage.

Obstructed drains cleared .. .. .	2
Drains repaired or improved .. .. .	3
Water-closets repaired, improved or re-constructed .. .. .	1
Flushing apparatus provided or repaired .. .. .	2

### Water Supply.

Well supply improved - houses .. .. .	4
---------------------------------------	---

### Repairs to Dwellinghouses.

Chimneys re-constructed or repaired .. .. .	1
External brickwork and rendering repaired - houses .. .. .	2
Roofs repaired .. .. .	6
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired, renewed or provided .. .. .	3
Floors renewed or repaired - rooms .. .. .	2
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired - rooms .. .. .	2
Dampness remedied - rooms .. .. .	4
Doors and windows repaired or renewed .. .. .	11
Lighting and ventilation improved - rooms .. .. .	10
Staircases and steps repaired .. .. .	4
Yard paving repaired or renewed - houses .. .. .	3
Yard paving provided with means of drainage .. .. .	2





FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sect. 1,2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	52	3	1	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	55	3	1	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil



Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of Work.	
Wearing Apparel.	
Making etc.	Cleaning & washing.
3	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Section 133.

No. of out-workers in August  
list required by Sect.133 (1)(c)

No. of cases of default in  
sending lists to Council

No. of prosecutions for  
failure to supply lists.

Section 134.

No. of instances of work in  
unwholesome premises.

Notices served.

Prosecutions.



OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Class of premises.	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	54	52	1
Retail shops	98	96	Nil
Wholesale shops, warehouses	5	5	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	7	7	Nil
Fuel storage depots	3	3	Nil
TOTALS	167	163	1

TABLE B - NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

31

TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	294
Retail shops	453
Wholesale departments, warehouses	61
Catering establishments open to the public	42
Canteens	1
Fuel storage depots	11
TOTAL	862
Total Males	392
Total Females	470





TABLE D - EXEMPTIONS.

Part I - Space (Sec.5(2)).  
 Part II - Temperature (Sec.6).  
 Part III - Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.9).  
 Part IV - Washing Facilities (Sec.10).

Class of premises.	No. of exemptions current at 31st Dec.	No. of exemptions granted or extended during year.	No. of applications refused or exemptions withdrawn during year.	No. of cases in cols.(3) & (4) where employees opposed application.	Appeals to Court against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption.	
					No. made	No. allowed
Offices	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Retail shops	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Wholesale shops, warehouses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



TABLE E - PROSECUTIONS.

Section or Act or title of Regulation or Order.	Number of persons or companies prosecuted.	Number of informations laid.	Number of informations leading to a conviction.
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under section 22 .. .. .			
Number of interim orders granted .. .. .			NIL
			NIL

TABLE F - INSPECTORS.

Number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act .. .. .	1
Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act .. .. .	NIL





Average daily measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide taken at Saffron Walden and other localities during the period 31st December, 1963 to 6th April, 1964.

CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE and  $\text{SO}_2$  EXPRESSED IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE.

SITE	POPULATION (thousands)	NATIONAL SURVEY CLASSIFICATION FOR SITE OF INSTRUMENT.	SMOKE	SULPHUR DIOXIDE.
Saffron Walden	8.5	Small town centre; limited commercial area mixed with old residential housing and possibly minor industry.	104	95
Town, Yorkshire Moors.	9.4	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	175	166
Town, Shropshire.	11.5	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	184	135
Town, Hertfordshire.	20.0	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	113	114
City, Midlands.	495.2	Residential area with high-density housing, interspersed with some industrial undertakings and surrounded by other built-up areas.	388	126
London - East end authority.	90.4	AS FOR CITY, MIDLANDS.	266	384



MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	762	1	4	821	2681	Nil
Number inspected	762	1	4	821	2681	Nil
<u>Animal diseases and conditions except tuberculosis and sticerci.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	110	Nil	Nil	20	328	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	14.4%	Nil	Nil	2.4%	12.5%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	48	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.8%	Nil
<u>Sticercosis.</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

